

**World Bank Assistance for Training of IT Engineers**

2936. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRALAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have approached the World Bank for part financing of \$ 1 billion project 'Operation Knowledge' to triple to number of engineers passing out from the Indian colleges by 2005;
- (b) if so, whether his Ministry has sought partial financial support from the World Bank which would be used for generating trained manpower to fulfil the burgeoning national and international demands;
- (c) if so, to what extent the World Bank has agreed to provide loan; and
- (d) whether any agreement has been reached in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information Technology has sent an outline of the scheme for "Operation Knowledge" to the President, World Bank on 14.11.2000 with a request to be a partner with the Government of India in its implementation.

(c) and (d) The response of the World Bank in the matter is awaited.

**Policy for Information Technology Sector**

2937. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering to formulate any policy to give a long-term direction to the information technology sector and for development of its second phase;

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<sup>†</sup>Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.